

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, please add the following new paragraphs before paragraph [0001]:

[0000.2] CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0000.4] This application is a 35 USC 371 application of PCT/DE 03/02315
filed on July 10, 2003.

[0000.6] BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] ~~Prior Art~~ **Field of the Invention**

Please replace paragraph [0002] with the following amended paragraph:

[0002] The invention relates to a **an improved** piezoelectric actuator, for example for actuating a mechanical component such as a valve or the like, ~~according to the features in the preamble to the main claim.~~

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0002]:

[0002.5] Description of the Prior Art

Page 2, please replace paragraph [0005] with the following amended paragraph:

[0005] ~~Advantages of the Invention~~

SUMMARY AND ADVANTAGES OF THE INVENTION

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] The piezoelectric actuator described ~~at the beginning~~ **above**, with outer electrodes, which are attached in a net-like or mesh-like fashion in the form of so-called screen electrodes and are contacted by the respective inner electrodes at least at points, is advantageously modified in that the contacting of the inner electrodes is provided in the corner region; the respective net-like or mesh-like outer electrodes are guided around the

respective corner in a predetermined region and contact the respective inner electrodes at least in parts.

Page 3, please replace paragraph [0011] with the following amended paragraph:

[0011] ~~Drawings~~ **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

Please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

[0012] Exemplary embodiments of the piezoelectric actuator according to the invention will be explained in **described herein below**, conjunction with the drawings, **in which:** [[.]]

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] ~~Description of the Exemplary Embodiments~~

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Page 4, please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0020]:

[0021] The foregoing relates to a preferred exemplary embodiment of the invention, it being understood that other variants and embodiments thereof are possible within the spirit and scope of the invention, the latter being defined by the appended claims.